The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 20, 1912, at the Post-Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1108, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 14, NO. 25. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1924. WHOLE NO. 700.

LABOR'S AGITATION EFFECTS BOTH OLD-PARTY CANDIDATES

The expected is happening—labor's aggressive non-partisan agitation is forcing the old-party candidates to more advanced positions. Labor has rejected their platforms, and every effort is being made to have the workers forgive and forget.

Now, Mr. Coolidge and Mr. Davis would abandon the labor sections of their platforms. They, together with their political managers, are striving to attract labor just in proportion to labor's agitation of its principles.

It may be fairly assumed that these old-party tactics will be intensified as labor continues to urge the election of La Follette and Wheeler.

The new strategy of the old-party candidates was indicated in their Labor day speeches.

The organized workers have so thoroughly exposed the old-party platform shams that the two candidates did not refer to them, but struck out on new paths.

This attitude is an unconscious tribute to labor's refusal to be fooled and its determination to stand by those who have so earnestly espoused its cause.

The most notable statement made by Candidate Coolidge, in his Labor day speech, was his opposition to compulsory arbitration and the right to strike "in private employment."

He said labor's right to bargain collectively, and to negotiate through their own chosen agents, "has been established."

This statement will be questioned by employes of the Pennsylvania railroad, the steel trust, the harvester trust, the textile barons and even the United States shipping board, which joined private ship owners in smashing the seamen's strike, two years ago.

Mr. Coolidge also said "we are attempting at the present time to secure a constitutional amendment giving congress jurisdiction over child labor."

He did not specify who "we" are, or what practical effort is being made along the lines mentioned.

He said the labor sections of the transportation act "could probably be modified, through mutual agreement to the benefit of all concerned."

Mr. Coolidge expressed pleasure that labor was not "deflated" in the last few years, and gave his party credit for this situation. He ignored the terrific drives that were made against labor and the charge of excessive wages and low production that was echoed by every spokesman for privilege. It was organized labor's stand that blocked wage reductions.

He was silent on the labor injunction. Most of his speech was based on the theory that legislation, such as the tariff, is responsible for labor's good conditions, as compared with conditions in Europe.

Mr. Davis, in his Labor day speech, declared for freedom of speech and other freedom guarantees. He has taken a new position on the labor injunction and now favors limiting this writ "to its proper functions and to give the right of trial by jury to those who are charged with criminal contempt."

Or, in other words, judges may issue labor injunctions and when workers are charged with violation of same they may have a trial by jury—a modified form of government by injunction.

Mr. Davis declared in favor of the child labor amendment. His party platform dodged that issue.

He favored the right of "free contract," and declared that "anything other than this, I believe to be impossible, undesirable, corrupting and tyrannical."

This statement is of especial interest, because from out of West Virginia—Mr. Davis' home state—came the infamous "yellow dog" contract, by which a worker, seeking employment, signs an agreement that he will not join a union if he is permitted to labor.

The "yellow dog" has been sustained by the supreme court of the United States (Hitchman case).

Mr. Davis favors a "revision" of the labor section of the railroad act. Labor demands the abolition of this section.

The two speeches are significant. They will stimulate the workers to greater activity in impressing upon the public mind their principles and their reasons for supporting La Follette and Wheeler.

Labor wins only when it educates!

RULERSHIP BY JUDGES IS FOR WORKERS ONLY

Seattle, Sept. 6.—The workers are victims of a new theory of government, declared United States Senator Shipstead, in explaining the labor injunction at a mass meeting in this city.

"Workers are deprived of their rights under the law," said Senator Shipstead. "Workers are made subjects of the irresponsible will of what is sometimes called the conscience of our judges, sitting in courts of equity, through the misuse of the power of injunction. In other words, so far as labor is concerned, government by injunction is displacing government by law. We believe these conditions have been brought about by the misuse of the power of government by those who have been entrusted with the control of that power.

"We believe that the paramount duty of every American citizen, man and woman, this year is to join hands with the progressive forces and elect Robert La Follette president, and Burton K. Wheeler vice president, in order that the administration of government may be taken from those who have, and, as we believe will, continue to use it for special privilege, and in order that the administration of government shall be vested in men who shall see to it that the powers of government shall be used for the purpose for which the government is intended."

NATION'S HIGH COURT DECLARED DESPOTIC

Washington, Sept. 6.—In one of the bitterest criticisms ever made on the supreme court of the United States, Justice John Ford of the New York supreme court informs Senator La Follette that he will support the La Follette-Wheeler ticket. The federal high court is declared "an absolute despotism" which makes democracy "an idle dream."

Denouncing the "reactionary platform and Tory candidates of the Republicans," Justice Ford declares that "the Democratic convention adopted a dishonest, cowardly and platitudinous platform and selected a tried and true servant of plutocracy as its candidate for president."

"For the citizen who loves our democracy and believes with Lincoln in a government of, by and for the people, and holds with Jefferson that the true object of government should be the greatest good for the greatest number," said Justice Ford, "there is no practical way in which he can express his convictions by his ballot in this election except by voting your ticket.

"I shall so vote and work for the election of yourself and Senator Wheeler.

"Your stand for divesting the federal judiciary of its irresponsible power especially recommends your candidacy to me.

"The appointment of men of the United States is an absolute despotism. It is beyond the control of congress, of the constitution, of the people and of any authority which is directly or indirectly responsible to the people.

"So long as that appointive, lifetime oligarchy remains the supreme power in the nation, our boasted democracy is a sham and the kind of government Lincoln lived and died to perpetuate becomes an idle dream.

"Believing as I do in the principles you stand for, I should consider myself guilty of conduct sounding in treason should I fail to give my full support to the cause you represent."

ABOLISH CHILD LABOR IS URGE TO WORKERS

Washington, Sept. 6.—In a statement signed by the A. F. of L. executive council and officers of the Massachusetts state federation of labor, trade unionists in that state are urged to actively engage in the campaign for the adoption of the federal child labor amendment, which will be passed upon by the people of that state at the forthcoming election.

Every labor union in the state is urged to appoint a committee to conduct a campaign in favor of the ratification of the amendment. "The entire time of these committees should be given to the cause of the children," the statement says.

"Propaganda of the most vicious nature is circulated for the purpose of deceiving the people. The most deceptive of the claims made by those who would employ children is that no one under the age of 18 will be permitted to work if the amendment is ratified. If the intent of the amendment was to prohibit the labor of all persons up to 18 years, there need have been no provision for 'limiting' or 'regulating' the labor of children up to that age, as the federal congress already prohibited from working could not be further limited or restricted. This is not the real issue, the statement continues.

In referring to the emphasis laid upon "states rights" by opponents of the amendment, the point is made that "if some of the states had not been recalcitrant to their duty, there would be no need of federal law or a constitutional amendment for the protection of the natien's children.

"It is, therefore, the duty of the nation to hold to no state the power and right to legalize the employment of children at an age that is detrimental to the interests of the nation as a whole."

P. O. WORKERS FAVOR VETOED WAGE BILL

Washington, Sept. 6.—The Kelly-Edge wage bill, vetoed by President Coolidge, will be supported by postal workers when congress convenes next December. This plan was agreed to at a conference of national representatives of these employes.

Spokesmen for the National Association of Letter Carriers, National Federation of Post Office Clerks, Railway Mail association and the National League of District Postmasters pledged the active support of their respective groups to a nation-wide educational campaign for the support of the Kelly-Edge bill, which is known as senate bill No. 1898.

The postal workers declare that this bill more nearly meets the need of men and women in the postal service than any other measure, and a vigorous educational campaign will assure its passage.

SUPPORT LA FOLLETTE

Schenectady, N. Y., Sept. 6.—Declaring that the platforms of the Democratic and Republican parties are "meaningless," the annual convention of the state federation of labor indorsed the candidacy of La Follette and Wheeler.

MINERS WON'T ASSIST COAL OWNERS' PLOT

Fairmont, W. Va., Sept. 6.—The United Mine Workers of America has declined the anti-union coal owners in legalizing their barbaric policy of evicting miners' families from shacks they call "homes."

Judge Lazelle of Monongalia county favored the plan, according to Roscoe F. Posten, prosecuting attorney of that county, who informed Van Bittner, representative of the mine workers, that Judge Lazelle asked that the mine workers join with these coal owners in a request to him that a special term of court be held to try the eviction cases.

In refusing Judge Lazelle's suggestion, Representative Bittner said that the coal owners house their live stock and their automobiles better than their employes.

"Without arguing the legal equations involved," said Van Bittner in his letter to the Monongalia prosecutor, "we say to you that every man is faced with a moral obligation in life that he can not escape. No man can convince us that it is morally right to evict miners and their wives at this time of the year in coal company houses and throw them on the highway just because they are fighting for the inherent principles of liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

"We have seen the anti-union coal operators of West Virginia, in their insane desire to worship at the altar of greed, forcibly break down the doors of the homes and forcibly eject the miner, his wife, his babes from the only place they can call home.

"Only recently at Brady, West Virginia, the miners' homes were broken into by gunmen of the Logan mine company, with Samuel Brady himself directing the work of destruction. Women—American women, if you please—born and reared in West Virginia, and little children, were driven to the hills for shelter. While this un-American scene was enacted, Sheriff Yost of Monongalia county watched the proceedings.

"Most of the homes from which our people have been evicted are miserable shacks for which they have paid in rents many times the original cost.

"We charge that the hiring of armed guards by the coal mine operators to throw defenseless men, women and children out of their homes, can be defended and is defended, can not be defended."

ECONOMIC DESPOTISM IN R. R. FREIGHT RATES

Superior, Wis., Sept. 6.—While Pittsburgh plus on steel has been ordered abandoned by the federal trade commission, Pennsylvania plus still remains, said Congressman Peavey in a speech in this city. He explained that Pittsburgh plus was the charging of freight at railroad rates on coal shipped to this city when the companies are actually paying freight at water transportation rates. The people are gouged from $2.20 to $3.80 a ton for freight, when the charge paid by the companies is only 40 cents a ton, Mr. Peavey said.

STAGE EMPLOYES GAIN

Everett, Wash., Sept. 6.—Stage employes and theatre operators have secured a new agreement.

CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT FAVORED BY CHURCH MEN

Washington, Sept. 6.—Church men of the nation are wholeheartedly supporting the child labor amendment to the federal constitution.

This is a statement just issued by the commission on the church and social service of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, this spokesman for Protestant church men refers to the child labor amendment as "a charter of freedom for childhood."

"Churches throughout the country will need to exert their full influence upon public opinion in the states to secure ratification," the statement says. "Congress will then have the authority, now lacking, to accomplish what it has twice attempted, only to have its acts declared unconstitutional, and to legislate from time to time for the protection of children. More than a million children who have been driven from their childhood by the necessity of earning a living will then be given their chance at life. A uniform national law, controlling child labor, will bring all industries under the restrictions of a minimum standard."

The bishops' social creed, issued by an organization composed of the Catholic archbishops of the United States, calls for a federal child law.

"The child labor amendment permits only a nation-wide minimum standard," says the department of social action, National Catholic Welfare Conference. "Any state may exceed the standard. This is done so as not to hamper the states whose conscience is awake and so as to avoid centralization. It is the stagnant and backward states remaining obdurate in the face of a federal law, that will have their child labor conditions regulated much by the federal government, and it is expected that there will be few or none of these after the national amendment is passed and a child labor law is put on the federal statutes."

Jewish clergymen have also taken strong ground against child labor, though the Central Conference of American Rabbis has not convened since congress acted on the amendment. In their conference in 1920 and 1922, the child labor declaration of the rabbis included a demand for "raising the standard of age wherever the child age limit is lower than is consistent with moral and physical health."

DISCOUNT DAWES PLAN BUSINESS IS ADVISED

New York, Sept. 6.—Politicians are jubilant over the increase in wheat prices and the consequent boom in trade, but financiers caution business men not to take these claims at their face value.

The Annalist, "a journal of finance, commerce and economics," states that "there is a discernable and probably justified slight cooling from the first flush of business optimism which was engendered by high prices for the large crop of American wheat."

It is estimated that the farmers have a $200,000,000 to $300,000,000 increase. Against this, the Annalist points out, wages of factory workers "probably will be cut dropped $600,000,000 in June, July and August.

"How much can $200,000,000 of wheat money go to counterbalance $600,000,000 lost wages and lost purchasing power?" asks the Annalist.

In discussing the Dawes plan, this financial journal says the general public may receive false impressions, but this is not true with "those who are awake to the complex and rather unfavorable conditions which are likely to confront the expert when under the expected conditions of a German revival."

The New York Evening Post says: "Some sound judges believe that a good deal of nonsense is talked about the stimulating effect of the reparations settlements on American industry."

All of these observers cautiously point out that with Germany "placed on a gold basis" as the writer says, that country will be equipped to supply her own markets and challenge competitors. Business men are assured that while conditions are not black, they are far from being as rosy as painted.

"Taking a broad view of the situation," says another observer, "it appears that the reparations and allied debts settlement, more goods will be produced in the world. Increased competition and a greater premium on efficiency appear to be the inevitable results. Incidentally, it is rather difficult to reconcile such an outlook with expectation for a higher level of commodity prices."

PERSONAL RIGHTS

There are two classes of thought in this matter of personal rights.

One class believes that men have certain rights from the very fact that they are men; that all states exist to conserve these rights; that no state has the power to infringe them or take them away. This is the doctrine of the Declaration of the Independence, the Constitution and the First Amendments known as the Bill of Rights.

The other class holds that men have no rights except such as they receive from the state, and what the state has given, the state can take away. This is the doctrine of both the imperialists and the Socialists.—The Leader, San Francisco.

ONE-HALF OF POPULACE HAVE PHYSICAL DEFECTS

Washington, Sept. 6.—In urging medical men to issue health suggestions to the public on Defense day; September 12, Surgeon General Ireland "statistics show that about one-half of our population is sub-normal," and the country suffers annually a drain of $1,500,000,000 by preventable illness and curable defects of its citizens.

"The draft statistics show that 46.8 per cent of the 2,750,000 whose medical records were complete were defective," the secretary said.

"It is conservatively estimated that preventable illness and curable physical defects cause an annual industrial loss of at least $1,500,000,000 per year. An appraisal can not be made of the distress and suffering involved.

"It may be too late for any constructive action on a nation-wide scale to eradicate the physical weakness of the present generation, but it is certainly not too late to prevent the oncoming generation from developing similar defects."

PAY ROLLS ARE LOWER

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 6.—Factory pay rolls in this state were $1,000,000 a week less in July than in June, according to the state department of labor. July was the fourth consecutive month of contracting pay rolls. A part of the decline might be ascribed to the usual summer vacations and the slowing up of production and earnings because of the Saturday half-holiday, Industrial Commissioner Shientag. "The fact remains, however, that weekly pay rolls are $6,000,000 lower than four weeks in July of last year, when the summer letdown was in effect the same as now."

MOVIE STRIKE AVERTED

New York, Sept. 6.—A strike of motion picture operators has been averted by a wage increase of 5 per cent, to take effect immediately and additional 5 per cent advance September 1 next.

COMMUNIST WOLVES URGE "RED" BLOCS

Chicago, Sept. 6.—The communists are now openly advocating revolutionary blocs in the trade unions. Prior to their issue at the so-called St. Paul "farmer-labor" convention the communists posed in the unions as advocates of progressives. This policy has failed and the communists have increased their woes by political blunders. They have now changed front. In a statement, "No Alliance With Reactionaries," the Moscow-directed crowd, through their trade union educational league, order "wherever possible, that revolutionary candidates be run on a straight T. U. E. L. program. This means a revolutionary bloc in every union, where it is safe to take such action.

New York, Sept. 6.—At a meeting of executives of Hebrew trade unions in this city, called to discuss the destructive tactics of communists, it was declared that because of their secrecy, their staged protest meetings and accusations, the communists are a greater menace than professional strikebreakers. It was declared that the communists are acting as if they are in the pay of anti-union employers.

It was further brought out that the political activity of the communists is a money shake-down plan to fool workers, their trade union leaders and superiors in Moscow as to an approaching revolution in the United States.

MILLIONS WASTED IN MILITARY CAMP

Baltimore, Sept. 6.—The government has started suit in the local federal court to recover $7,000,000 from New York contractors who built the Camp Meade cantonment, near here. The bill of particulars is a story of wild orgy, waste and confusion. Millions of dollars' worth of material was allowed to go to waste with no one in authority to save this property which was being paid for out of the people's savings. Workers were directed to "loaf on the job, go fishing, swimming, shoot craps, and gamble" at cantonment cost the government $18,000,000.

Before filing the suit, the federal district attorney said he did not know when it will be tried because of the number of cases now on the docket.

COAL MINE ACCIDENTS

Washington, Sept. 6.—Coal mine accidents in the United States during July caused the death of 182 men, the United States bureau of mines reports. This is 58 less than the number killed in July, 1923.

The July accidents brought the total number of fatalities reported in the bureau during the first seven months of 1924 to 1,488, as compared with 1,472 during the corresponding months last year.

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SOCIAL LEGISLATION URGED IN TENNESSEE

Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 6.—Organized labor in this state is preparing to urge its legislative program at the coming meeting of the Tennessee general assembly. The federal child labor amendment is given first position, and labor will be urged to help elect a sympathetic governor and legislature.

"It is a foregoing conclusion that the ratification will be vigorously opposed by those Tennessee employers who put dollars from the very life blood of childhood," said David Hanly, legislative chairman of the state federation of labor.

"The women's organizations as well as the labor unions of this state should arouse themselves and see that no person is elected to the governorship or to the legislature who is not in favor of this amendment," said Mr. Hanly.

Another important proposal is the compulsory education amendments that will bring the Tennessee act in line with modern thought. The outstanding defect in the act is that it is administered by the courts. This makes compensation settlements slow, complicated and costly—all tends to defeat the purpose of the act.

The passage of a "loan shark" bill, and legislation to limit the hours of female labor will also be urged. The present law allows female labor to be worked 57 hours per week.

WORKERS SPEEDED UP UNDER COMPANY "UNION"

Manchester, N. H., Sept. 6.—Textile workers employed by the Amoskeag company have been speeded up 15 to 100 per cent. This company established a company "union" two years ago, following a strike that lasted 42 weeks. Under the company "union" every favorable working condition has been taken from these employes and sweatshop conditions installed.

The employes, however, are occasionally given banquets and listen to rousing speeches by the corporation management.

BUTTON WORKERS GAIN

New York, Sept. 6.—After a three-days' strike, cloak button workers in this city established the union shop, the 44-hour week, time and one-half for overtime and a minimum wage of $40 a week. Prior to the strike these workers were on a piecework basis and averaged less than $25 a week.

FEDERAL MATERNITY ACT HAS CONFOUNDED FOES

Washington, Sept. 6.—The federal maternity and infancy act has proven so successful as to have confounded its opponents, according to a statement by the United States children's bureau.

The law has been in existence 15 months. Under its operation the federal government gives states an amount of money equal to appropriations these states make to carry on maternity and infancy educational work. The latter is compelled to accept this information.

The act has already demonstrated its value in that it has:

"Stimulated state activities in maternity and infancy hygiene.

"Maintained the principle of local initiative and responsibility.

"Improved the quality of the work being done for mothers and babies by disseminating through a central source the best information available—the results of scientific research and methods of work which have been found to operate successfully.

The federal government and the states that have accepted the act have expended $1,888,612.12 to promote the welfare of mothers and babies.

Every state but Kansas, Illinois, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island have accepted the act.

RAIL BOARD IGNORED; SHOP MEN VICTIMIZED

Minneapolis, Sept. 6.—The Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie (Soo) railroad continues to victimize organized shop men and ignore rulings by the railroad labor board.

During the shop men's strike, the Soo line organized strike-breakers into a company "union." The strike was ended on this line with the understanding that the management would abandon its company "union" and reinstate the strikers. No attempt has been made by the company to live up to its agreement. Instead, if employes do not join the company "union" they are victimized. Leading men who let it be known that membership in this alleged "union" is necessary to hold a position.

The Soo line's tactics are identical with those of the Pennsylvania railroad, which has been the institution for union-smashing transportation systems. All these corporations ignore rulings by the railroad labor board.

COKE OVEN ACCIDENTS

Washington, Sept. 6.—Last year 45 employes were killed and 3,581 were injured in the coke oven industry of this country, reports the United States bureau of mines. The main causes of accidents were falls of persons, burns, falling objects, hand tools and cars.

EMPLOYERS OUSTED

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 6.—The Electrical Contractors' association has been expelled from the associated building industries of St. Louis, when it signed an agreement with Electrical Workers' union No. 1.

The associated contractors are attempting to have all agreements expire during the fall or early months, but the electrical workers smashed this program by signing an agreement that can be reopened next July.

FIRE FIGHTERS TO MEET

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 6.—The International Association of Fire Fighters will hold their convention in this city, beginning September 15.

WHY LABOR FAVORS LA FOLLETTE

Report of A. F. of L. Non-Partisan Political Committee and Adopted by A. F. of L. Executive Council

As to the candidates and platforms, both the Republican and Democratic national party conventions flaunted the desires of labor, the Republican convention in the arrogant manner; the Democratic convention by that evasiveness which is the customary mark of instinctive fear.

There remains the candidacy of Robert M. La Follette and Burton K. Wheeler, the first an independent Republican and the second an independent Democrat, running as such.

These candidates have offered a platform in which the economic issues of the day are met in a manner more nearly conforming to labor's proposals than any other platform.

This platform pledges a remedy for the injunction evil.

It pledges the right to organize and collectively to cease work.

It pledges protection of the rights of free speech, free press and free assemblage.

It pledges abolishment of the railroad labor board.

It pledges a measure to annul the power of the supreme court to declare laws permanently unconstitutional.

It declares for direct election of president and vice president and elimination of federal judges.

It recommends prompt ratification by the states of the child labor constitutional amendment.

It pledges subsequent federal legislation to protect child life.

On international issues this platform does not conform to labor's proposals but it does more fully than any other political platform meet labor's views in relation to domestic economic issues.

We can not do other than point out this fact, together with the further and perhaps more important fact that the candidates, Mr. La Follette and Mr. Wheeler, have throughout their whole political careers stood steadfast in defense of the rights and interests of the wage earners and the farmers.

We can not fail to observe that both Republican and Democratic parties through manipulated control, are in a condition of moral bankruptcy which constitutes a menace and a peril to our country and its institutions. Machine politicians have brought upon our country moral obliquity and unashamed betrayal. We are judging on the basis of the condition which exists and this judgment will be reversed only when the conditions upon which it is based are changed.

YEARLY, NOT WEEKLY, INCOME IS BASIS FOR WAGE INCREASE

San Francisco, Sept. 6.—In an award that increased printers' wages $5 a week, Judge Frank R. Devlin, former member of the state railroad commission, made allowance for lack of work, sickness, holidays and other causes for idleness in estimating a yearly wage aggregate.

The arbitrator declared that 47 weeks, instead of 52 weeks, represents the average employment for these workers, and that their wages should be based accordingly. Judge Devlin let it be understood that he is more interested in the yearly income of the worker than in the wage of one week. This reasoning, when applied to seasonal trades, will shatter the "high-wage" claim of those who merely consider one week's wage.

"In order that proper comparison can be made with cost of living and other important factors, based upon annual periods," said Judge Devlin, "inquiry should be made as to what a given weekly wage would aggregate for a year, after proper deductions for the period of time that the wage earner is not paid for, due to holidays, vacation periods, sickness and other similar causes.

"Obviously, to take a weekly wage and multiply by 52 would fall short of what the minimum weekly wage aggregates for the year.

"It appears, however, that with the six holidays and two-weeks' vacation period deducted, aggregating seven weeks, that two weeks added thereto for the year, to meet contingent losses due to sickness, lack of work and other causes occasioning lack of employment, would approximate the fair and reasonable in this regard, thus making 47 weeks represent the average paid for regular time in a year."